44:Matthews and Akrawi S, G-3 (1945-1946)1949 Mi Middle East
Iraq MHI

*872 *873 The American School for Boys in Baghdad was founded by the Dutch Reform Mission, but is at present under an independent board of trustees of which Lowell Thomas is president. Dr. and Mrs. Calvin K. Staudt, associated with the School since its founding a quarter of a century ago, have not only made it possible for boys to qualify for the Secondary-School Certificate examination, but have also done much to develop good character and good will among the diverse groups that attend the School. High standards are maintaned in the Arabic language, but special attention is given to strengthening oral and written English. Certain subjects, such as science, mathematics, and general history are taught in the last two years through the medium of English so that graduates will be better equipped to continue their education at the American University of Beirut or in Western universities. Pupils of the School are not under obligation to take the public Secondary-School Certificate examination in order to graduate. The School has a variety of student activities and organizations, which include Arabic and English dramatic societies, an international relations club, a chorus, assemblies, a brotherhood, sports field days and intramural athletic contests, oratorical contests, and Sunday evening religious services. Recently (1945) it became a member of the Near East Colleges Association, and is being developed into a college. A boys primary school is maintained under an Iraqi principal.

The American School for Girls was founded in Baghdad in 1925 by the United Mission of Mesopotamia. A six-year primary school, under an Iraqi principal, is followed by a five-year secondary school under the supervision of an American principal. The program of the School parallels the government program, and pupils regularly take the appropriate public examinations. Here, too, the use of the English language is stressed, and graduates are fitted for higher education in English and American institutions.

• [791] The most recently established American school in Iraq is the Baghdad College for Boys, founded by American Jesuits in 1932 and now under the supervision of Rev. Francis B. Sargeant, S.J. The aim of the school is to provide a good secondary education under Catholic auspices. Located at the northern edge of Baghdad, this school is housed in the most modern school buildings in all Iraq and has extensive play areas that are ample for athletic activities. It has boarding facilities, and in 1945–46 70 of the 418 boys enrolled were boarders. The fact that fees are comparatively high determines that most of the students will be of the upper middle class. The majority are from Christian families, but other religions are represented. The program follows the public-school program rather closely,

744

teurization plant near Baghdad and seeks to improve the standards of agriculture which should be reflected in better nutrition among the people. The Ministry of Communications and Works maintains health and medical facilities at the port of Basra, and furnishes medical care for railway personnel.

746
751

Several voluntary agencies carry on health work, usually in co-operation with the Ministry of Health. The Children's Welfare Society conducts an extensive program for the promotion of maternal and child health, and operates welfare centers in Baghdad and the administrative centers of the remaining provinces. The Red Crescent Society supports a child health center in Baghdad, and provides training for girls in first aid and home nursing through branches in Baghdad, Basra, Hilla, Amarah and Kirkuk. The Anti-Tuberculosis Society campaigns against tuberculosis, and contributed toward the erection of a sanatorium, opened in 1951, near Baghdad. The

743

Catholic Nuns Society runs a small general hospital and dispensary, and the Society of Buyout el Umma an ophthalmic hospital and dispensaries in Baghdad.

747
743

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church of America maintains a medical mission in the Amarah region. It operates a hospital and founded the leper colony, which has since been taken over by the government. The Seventh Day Adventists also have a hospital in Baghdad. The

[460]

Iraq Petroleum Company and its subsidiaries, the Mosul Petroleum Company and the Basra Petroleum Company, provide medical and health services for the benefit of their employees.

Medical Institutions

743

Hospitals and Dispensaries. In 1950, there were 82 civilian hospitals in Iraq with an aggregate capacity of 4,901 beds, or slightly over 1 bed per 1,000 population. Of this number, 2,086 beds were located in Baghdad, 534 in Basra and 412 in Mosul provinces. Sixty-seven hospitals, with a

combined capacity of 4,330 beds, were operated by the government health authorities; 4 hospitals with 153 beds by other governmental agencies; and 11 hospitals with 418 beds by industrial, mission or private organizations. Free medical care was provided in 4,475 beds, representing over 90 per cent of the hospital beds available in the country.

The Royal Hospital in Baghdad is foremost among the institutions under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health. It has medical, surgical, pediatric and infectious disease sections, with a total capacity of 650 to 750 beds. The remaining hospitals of the Ministry now come under the authority of the Director of Curative Medicine. According to the statistics for 1950, they included 42 general hospitals, with an aggregate capacity of about 2,300 beds, of which one or more in each province were Grade 1 hospitals under the supervision of medical officers. Maternity and child welfare divisions were incorporated in the general hospitals, which provided 962 beds for maternity cases and 134 beds for children. The special institutions consisted of 6 isolation hospitals with a total capacity of 596 beds, 3 ophthalmic hospitals with 79 beds, 2 venereal disease hospitals with 52 beds, 2 child welfare hospitals with 155 beds, 3 maternity and children's hospitals with 71 beds, a mental hospital of 120 beds, a leper hospital of 180 beds and 6 prison hospitals with 92 beds. A 400-bed tuberculosis sanatorium, which was sponsored in part by the Anti-Tuberculosis Society, was opened near Baghdad in 1951. Another 120-bed hospital in Basra was completed in 1952.

The American Mission hospital, with 38 beds, in Amarah and the new Seventh Day Adventist hospital, with 60 beds, in Baghdad are prominent among the private institutions. As of 1951, 3 hospitals with a combined capacity of 170 beds were operated by the Iraq Petroleum Company in the Kirkuk region. The medical facilities of the company in the oil field and the pipeline areas also included 20 detention camps, with